



Little did Richard Warfield know what he was starting

By SANDRA BAXLEY TAYLOR, *Columnist*

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There was little publicity, no fanfare, when Richard Warfield set sail for America in 1659. He was young. Maryland records refer to him as a "boy". He was either an orphan or his family was too poor to care for him because he sailed as an indentured servant, someone who has sold himself to another for a certain number of years in return for passage.

Was Richard scared, setting out for a land of forests and Indians and a town so new that planters' wives and daughters had to be carried about by servants on chairs mounted on rails to save their satin slippers from the mud.

Did he love England and hate to leave it? Or was his mind focused firmly on a goal, knowing what he wanted and determined to get it?

Annapolis was settled in the late 1650s mainly by Virginia residents from the vicinity of Jamestown who packed up and moved across a river or two into Maryland for two reasons. Some were Quakers who were angry that the Virginia governor insisted they worship in the Church of England. Others were devout Episcopalians who wasted no time in founding St. Anne's Episcopal Church which today still centers the city of Annapolis. They relocated because of generous offers of land from the Roman Catholic Lord Baltimore, who was more interested in getting settlers for his colony than in imposing religious re-

strictions.

From Virginia came the families of Capt. John Norwood, a cousin of Gov. Berkeley; John Howard; Cornelius Lloyd; John Chew of Somersetshire, England, who arrived in Virginia in 1622 on the Sea Flower; Capt. Thomas Todd; Nicholas Wyatt; Henry Sewall and others.

Richard Warfield saw what he wanted and worked hard for it. In February of 1674, he claimed the 50 acres of land to which he was entitled for completing his indentureship. He joined the Provincial Militia and eventually became an officer.

Before he died in 1704, Warfield had bought more than 2,000 acres, building plantations dubbed with fanciful names as was the custom in Maryland: Gardner's Warfield, Warfield's Right, Warfield's Forrest, Warfield's Plaines, The Addition, Brandy, Warfield's Range...

He married Elinor Browne, the daughter of Capt. John Browne, mariner, of London, a descendant of Sir Stephen Browne and his wife Eva, who was sister of Griffith, Prince of Wales.

Richard Warfield's seven children married into the families whose plantations lined the Severn River across from and to the land now known as the United States Naval Academy — Gaither, Pierpont, Duvall, Yate, Dorsey and Howard.

Girls married young, often outliving two husbands and leaving their third husband a widower, who might marry for a second and maybe a third time.

Drawing a chart of the intermarriages of Warfield's descendants would drive a monk to drink. First cousins married routinely. Uncles married nieces. There were six and sometimes 12 children by each marriage. It taxes the imagination to attempt in one's mind to reassemble a household described by a government official in which the half brothers and half sisters have six and sometimes seven different last names, and the family includes assorted children with the same names described as "cousins."

A half century after Richard Warfield died the great migration southward to North Carolina was in full swing, fueled by the "great tobacco failure" of 1751. Warfield's descendants who looked for greener pastures by this time included dozens of family names — Smith, Jones, David, Reid, Lee, Orrick, Bush, Holland, Middleton, Bryan, Dozier, Young, etc. They settled heavily in Rowan (later Anson) County, North Carolina, some continuing down river to stay for a while with relatives in Georgetown, S.C. His descendants dominated Halifax, N.C. as well as New Hanover. They continued to intermarry with their Virginia cousins, who had staked claims on land bordering

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and new territory of Mississippi and Alabama.

They returned to the area with their families, settling entire communities with kin in Montgomery and Lowndes counties, moving southward to do the same in Covington and Conecuh counties, joining relatives who had moved to St. Stephens a decade before. As Saint Stephens died, they moved to Mobile.

Some branches of Richard Warfield's family did not move to North Carolina or to Alabama. They stayed in Maryland, building dynasties and passing the Warfield legacy from generation to generation.

What would young Richard Warfield have thought when leaving London if he could have looked ahead nearly 300 years when one of his tens of thousands of descendants returned?

Her name was Wallis Warfield, a divorcee married to her second husband. The world knows her as the woman for whom a king of England left his throne — the Duchess of Windsor.

Young Richard might have been taken askance at such behavior.

Chances are, however, that he would have recognized a kindred spirit in this descendant who crossed an ocean, saw what she wanted, staked her claim and went for it.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2006

FACES OF THE COAST



William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

Mary 'Pat' Warfield

Mary "Pat" Warfield is the Coastal region supervisor for The Blood Center in Pascagoula. Along with her work at the center, Warfield has been a medical technologist for 38 years and also taught phlebotomy at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

for 11 years. Warfield says she loves working with people and doing things that benefit them. Pat was born in Lebanon, Tenn., and grew up in Monticello, Miss. She has lived in Pascagoula for 36 years and raised a daughter, Marion, with her husband, William Warfield.

CHRONICLE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1919

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MONDAY

Taylor Holmes in "A Regular Fellow." and
Triangle comedy.

TUESDAY

Wallace Reid in "You Are Fired." Capitol
comedy "Wonderful Night."

WEDNESDAY

H. B. Warner in "For a Woman's Honor."
Strand comedy, "Hearts and Hats."

THURSDAY

William S. Hart in "The Money Corral."
Sunshine comedy, "His Musical
Sneeze."

FRIDAY

Mabel Normand in "Mickey." Mutt &
Jeff in "The Shell Game."

SATURDAY

Mabel Normand in "Mickey." Ruth Ro-
land in "The Tigers Trail."

Saturday Continuous 3:00 to 11:00 P. M.

Next Week Douglas Fairbanks in "His Majesty the American."

Pascagoula Chronicle Sat. Oct. 25, 1919